

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: End of life inquiry

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From: Nan McGillivray

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 7:58 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: End of life inquiry

I wish to voice my concerns re the End of Life Inquiry :

Overseas experience shows the difficulty of putting in place adequate protections against abuse. Over time protections are inevitably eroded. In Belgium the mentally ill are now euthanised and even children are not safe.

Increasing reports of elder financial abuse, even by family members, and the number of elderly fearing they are a burden on their family show the subtle pressures faced by frail and vulnerable people. This is a real danger.

The Australian Medical Association has repeatedly spoken against euthanasia - it is against the Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors and can put them in untenable situations. The AMA recommends better palliative care and palliative sedation as a last resort. This is far preferable to state-sanctioned killing which has no place in a civilised society.

No mention of this inquiry was mentioned prior to the election and the public was given no notice of this course of action, depriving citizens of time for mature consideration.

Please reconsider this retrograde step.

George B. McGillivray

Sent from my iPad